

English Writing 4-5 Fall 2025 Syllabus

Teacher: Ally Zhang

Students: 4th and 5th graders who need to strengthen foundational writing skills

Age Range: 9-11

Materials: In-class materials will be provided by the teacher; parents are responsible for their own child's student research (such as e-books from online library, physical books, etc.) and for taking their child to asynchronous field trip locations.

Place: CHS Rm E113; Google Classroom for student homework submissions and teacher grading.

Course Description and Objectives:

By the end of the semester, students will be able to:

1. Continue to strengthen author identity, audience awareness, and genre awareness
2. Demonstrate good understanding of new genres (journalistic and travel genres).
3. Effectively choose and employ proper genres in writing.
4. Effectively mesh and employ two genres in one piece of writing, one of which being a main genre while the other being a subordinate genre.
5. Categorize information and create outlines to organize the content generated by brainstorming, reading, and data collecting.
6. Use research to better understand others, expand their own and their audience's knowledge, enrich their fictional stories, and connect with the world around.
7. Interact with teacher and peers both socially and academically in speech and in writing in academically and linguistically appropriate ways.

Course Schedule: (Abbreviation: HW-homework)

Unit 1: A Taste of Journalism

Aug. 10: First day of school. Basic info and classroom rules. **Parents will be asked to fill out online forms (consent, contact info, classroom duty).** Personality Profile: (1) Genre intro; (2) Students design interview questions. HW: Post interview questions on Google Classroom.

Aug. 17: Interview a classmate in class: Take good notes and write legibly. HW: write up in the personality profile/journalist genre and submit to Google Classroom.

Aug. 24: The art of journalistic visual presentation: Design your first newspaper column. In-class work: complete in class and present results to classmates

Aug. 31: Labor Day, no school

Unit 2: Creative Writing Meets Mythology

Sep. 7: Mythologies and Chinese Mythologies. HW: Retell a Chinese Mythological Story of your choice and submit to Google Classroom.

Sep. 14: Chinese Mythologies with a Fun Flare: To be the protagonist or to add a sidekick. HW: Post story on Google Classroom.

Sep. 21: Share your stories visually: How does the sidekick in your story enhance the protagonist? In-class work: Complete in class and present results to classmates.

Unit 3: Writing in Natural Science

Sep. 28: Matter State and Simple Chemical Composition. Choose a matter (the teacher will provide a list) to research on. HW: Fill out research handout on Google Classroom.

Oct. 5: Fall Break, no school.

Oct. 12: My Life as a [matter]: Marriage of two genres. Accurate science through a first-person narrative. HW: Write up narrative essay on Google Classroom.

Oct. 19: Guess who I am: Interactive presentation of narrative essay. In-class work.

Unit 4: Travel Writing and Video Presentation

Oct. 26: XXX, My City: The travel writing genre. HW: Write about your city in this new genre and post on Google Classroom.

Nov. 2: Sequencing for better reader experience: Revise and Edit. HW: on Google Classroom.

Nov. 9: Transforming your writing into other forms: PPT or Brochure. HW: Post on Google Classroom.

Nov. 16: Video scripting: Pick ONE aspect of your city to write up a script for a YouTube video. HW: Complete script on Google Classroom.

Nov. 23: Trial run and make your video: Group presentation in class. HW: Make movie and submit in proper folder on Google Drive.

Nov. 30: Thanksgiving. No school.

Dec. 7: CHS facility unavailable. No school.

Finals Week

Dec. 14: Last day of school. **Documentary Fair.** We will watch the best part of everyone's videos!

Dec. 21: Winter Break starts

*** Attendance is important: (1) it holds students accountable for their own learning, and (2) it is directly linked to learning outcome. In-class activities cannot be recreated after class no matter how well teacher recaps in email or how much parents work with students.**

*** Students MUST complete homework AND save all writing homework for later use.**